

Education Committee

SUPPORT: Executive Budget Charter School Per Pupil Increase

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Dear Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Chianne Parker, I hope you are having a safe and productive year considering our current circumstances with the pandemic. [I recorded my speech here for you to watch if you would prefer to do so.](#)

I grew up and attended school in Bridgeport CT., I am in my last year of my undergraduate degree at the University of Rochester.

Before the pandemic I was part of LEAP (learning and exploring at play). This program allows students on campus to tutor middle school students based on a relationship you develop with them over time. Working with the student made me realize I had amazing opportunities when attending my middle school at Achievement First. I wanted to take the insight I had and prepare other students whose place I was once in.

In doing that, I also joined a business fraternity to further my communication and professional skills in hopes that they would also organize a tutoring session for other local middle schools.

However the pandemic has ended my school year and all the educational organizations I had hoped to be part of.

Switching to remote learning was very difficult for me even though I've been around technology all my life. The learning gaps that are going to follow the pandemic are going to hit harder than ever; especially in low income inner city communities.

Knowing that there are children younger than me that are not getting the education they need, bothers me.

We must work together to pass legislation that equitably funds all black brown and minority children in low income communities in public schools, including public charter schools.

Today I hold leaders accountable to solutions to remedy inequities in education statewide, that impact disproportionately minorities like me.

This is why we need funding to open Danbury prospect and for Stamford Excellence a top public charter school to add its middle school grades.

It is imperative that public charter schools receive additional funding. This is why I support the Governor's proposal for our schools.

My parents have been fighting for equity in education for years. It is now my turn to do the same, because I will not be treated like a second class citizen and neither should any other student in the state of Connecticut.

I stand in support of SB 948, SB 949 and SB 886.

Best regards,

Chianne Parker

Achievement First Amistad High School Alumni